Subject: Support for Bioenergy Anaerobic Digestion Plant
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 8:37:14 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: malonepoultryconsulting@gmail.com
To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Lisa A. Vest, Hearing Officer
Office of the Secretary
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Ms. Vest,

This letter is written in support of the proposed anaerobic digester at the Bioenergy Innovation Center located in Sussex County. As a retired University of Delaware poultry researcher/extension specialist with 30+ years in waste management, I have long been a proponent of anaerobic digestion. As you may be aware, anaerobic digestion is not a new technology, it has been used worldwide for years with the US only recently catching up on this proven process.

The natural process of transforming organic materials, such as the byproducts of chicken processing, into renewable energy and a virtually odorless soil amendment is the right solution to protect our environment in the Nanticoke River Watershed, on the Delmarva Peninsula, and in the greater Chesapeake Bay region.

The waste from poultry processing, hatchery waste, and litter are already here on the Delmarva. Anaerobic digestion will do a superior job at managing what is known as dissolved air flotation (DAF), an output of poultry processing and these other waste streams. Most of the byproducts of poultry processing end up in landfills, open-air tanks, or is land-applied, all of which pose challenges to our air and water quality as well as soil health. I do not see the current methods of DAF and hatchery waste usage/disposal as being sustainable long term.

Instead, this facility provides the Delaware's agriculture and the chicken industry a way to manage this material efficiently and sustainably in an enclosed and monitored environment.

In addition, anaerobic digestion significantly reduces the risk of waste material ending up in watersheds like the Nanticoke as it breaks down nutrients from raw feedstocks creating a valued product which promotes overall soil health.

Simply, healthy soils naturally manage nutrients more effectively – which results in lower runoff and higher nutrient absorption by crops and plants, which means better yields and even better soils. This is a win for Delmarva, the community, and our farm families.

I believe that anaerobic digestion technology will improve the quality of life on the Delmarva Peninsula in support of our poultry, agriculture, and Sussex County communities, both in creating economic opportunity and ensuring environmental quality

Sincerely,
Bud Malone

University of Delaware Extension Poultry Specialist, retired
Malone Poultry Consulting, retired
malone@udel.edu or malonepoultryconsulting@gmail.com
(443) 944-6910